

Control No. 456371  
November 1955

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PETROLEUM

Frequency of Meetings: 6 meetings in FY 1955, plus a number of special meetings of a more restricted group

Members  
Participation

Valuable?

Continue?

Future Work?

Faults?

ACORN

Yes

Yes

Filling priority gaps and avoiding duplication

-

Yes. Has been means through which definite progress has been made in developing petroleum intelligence. Helped reconcile views of agencies involved in petroleum research to avoid some duplication in efforts. Its activities keeps its members aware of the projects under way, and of the completed reports which are available.

Yes-bimonthly

As in the past, examining gaps in intelligence and means of filling them; serving as a forum, etc.

No major.

Yes, complementing information available to ICA

Yes. Some very basic questions exist in the field of petroleum intelligence with which the subcommittee should deal on a broad basis while letting the working groups develop the necessary details.

Meetings tend to get lost in details and technicalities, instead of addressing major issues.

1 November 1955

SC Members  
Evaluation

Valuable?

Continue?

Future Work?

Faults?

GIR

Useful

Yes

Interagency  
forum and  
"ad hoc"  
studies

Many partici-  
pants not  
directly working  
on Bloc. Wrang-  
ling over inter-  
service procedural  
difficulties

ONI

Of value

Yes

Meetings as  
required to dis-  
cuss work in pro-  
gress in agencies  
and discuss for-  
eign developments  
in this field

Meetings should  
have a more speci-  
fic purpose or  
else should not  
convene.

ORD

Yes - contact  
and coordination;  
research and  
collection def-  
iciencies; agreed  
basic statistics

Yes

As in past -  
creation of new  
studies and re-  
search which  
would stimulate  
SC members and  
encourage more  
active partici-  
pation

No major - need  
more meetings,  
studies which  
challenge the sub-  
committee, personnel  
assigned who can  
discuss problems on  
an all-source basis.

OSD

Yes - of benefit  
and interest. It  
is the only joint  
group whereby  
intelligence pro-  
blems and matters  
may be discussed on  
a collective basis, a  
medium which is of  
value to the broad  
interest of this  
office.

Yes

Subcommittee recognizes it has not  
realized its full potential as medium  
for improving intelligence research;  
however, it has advanced and improved  
the development of petroleum intelli-  
gence in some areas. The mechanism  
offered by a committee of this nature  
will serve to reduce overlapping and  
duplicative efforts within the intelli-  
gence community. It is planned to  
accelerate committee activities and  
interest; meetings will be held at  
more frequent intervals.

Subcommittee's Evaluation of Itself (From Annual Report)

Within the past year there has been a ten per cent reduction of professional personnel in the U.S. Government concerned with research in petroleum intelligence on the Sino-Soviet Bloc. Hitherto "the effort of this professional resource has been directed primarily to intelligence matters related to the USSR portion of the Bloc. It is anticipated, however, that in the future more effort will be concentrated on problems surrounding Communist China and the Asiatic Satellites.

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"Research related to military petroleum consumption having been accomplished, the civil consumption of petroleum in other Bloc countries [than East Germany and Rumania] represents an outstanding critical deficiency. Except as indicated above, no research is currently scheduled on this deficiency by any member agency.

"No member agency has scheduled any research on the subject of estimates of stockpiles which subject is considered to be related to the problem of storage.

"The Subcommittee directed considerable effort to the establishment of Agreed Basic Statistics for selected phases of the petroleum economy of the Bloc. The statistics for the USSR were deposited in FY 1955. Similar statistics for the European Satellites and Communist China will be deposited during calendar year 1955.

"The Subcommittee recognizes that it has not realized its full potential as a vehicle for improving intelligence research. The Subcommittee has, however, advanced and improved the development of petroleum intelligence on the Sino-Soviet Bloc. It has served to identify deficiencies in petroleum intelligence and has monitored effort to fill such deficiencies. It has also provided a practical mechanism for the review and preliminary coordination of member agencies' substantive research and intelligence problems of mutual interest.

"Attention is invited to the substantive portion of the Subcommittee's future program outlined above. The physical organization of the Subcommittee is considered adequate to serve its Terms of Reference which Terms of Reference the Subcommittee indicates no desire to change.

"The Subcommittee met formally five (5) times during FY 1955. Efforts will be made to meet in the future at intervals of not less than 6 weeks and not more than 8 weeks even in the absence of a full agenda.

"Although representatives have continued to review and coordinate member agencies' substantive papers on an informal basis, it is planned that more time will be allotted to the formal review of such papers by the Subcommittee as a whole."

#### Secretariat's Evaluation of Subcommittee Activities

This subcommittee also has developed a strong community sense. Thus, it obtained EIC approval last spring for undertaking its own coordinated study to meet a community-recognized priority deficiency in research (i.e., on Peacetime Consumption of POL by Soviet Military Forces) and has had particular success in reaching approximate agreement on basic statistics in its field. Some inconvenience has been caused the Subcommittee by differences in the level of security clearance of various participants; and in recent months the practice has been followed of calling an inclusive regular meeting about once in two months with more restricted informal gatherings either immediately following or at intervening times. Altogether this group is functioning more and more effectively and has shown particular initiative in working out solutions to interagency (and even intra-agency) problems.

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1 November 1955  
PSC

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Recommended EIC Action:

1. To commend this Subcommittee for its generally constructive approach and for effective planning, carrying through, and reporting on its activities.
2. In view of the success which the Subcommittee has already achieved in interagency agreement of basic Sino-Soviet petroleum statistics, encourage the Subcommittee to seek to develop agreed petroleum balances for principal countries of the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

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